

background notes

Mexico



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

December 1985



Official Name:
The United Mexican States

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Mexican(s). **Population** (1985 est.): 78.6 million. **Annual growth rate** (1985 est.): 2.5%. **Ethnic groups:** Indian-Spanish (mestizo) 60%, American Indian 30%, Caucasian 9%, other 1%. **Religions:** Roman Catholic 97%, Protestant 3%. **Language:** Spanish. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—10. **Literacy**—74%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—55.9/1,000. *Life expectancy*—65.4 yrs. **Work force** (21,500,000, 1983): *Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing*—26%. *Manufacturing*—12.8%. *Commerce*—13.9%. *Services*—31.4%. *Mining and quarrying*—1.3%. *Construction*—9.5%. *Electricity*—0.3%. *Transportation and communication*—4.8%.

Geography

Area: 1.978 million sq. km. (764,000 sq. mi.); about three times the size of Texas. **Cities:** *Capital*—Mexico City (pop. 18 million, 1985 est.). *Other cities*—Guadalajara (3 million), Monterrey (2.7 million), Ciudad Juarez (1.12 million), Puebla de Zaragoza (1.1 million), Leon (1 million). **Terrain:** Varies from coastal lowlands to high mountains. **Climate:** Varies from tropical to desert.

Government

Type: Federal republic. **Independence:** First proclaimed September 16, 1810; Republic established 1822. **Constitution:** February 5, 1917.

Branches: *Executive*—president (chief of state and head of government). *Legislative*—bicameral. *Judicial*—Supreme Court, local and federal systems.

Political parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), Mexican Democratic Party (PDM), Socialist Workers Party (PST), Popular Socialist Party (PPS), the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), Mexican Workers Party (PMT), Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT). **Suffrage:** Universal over 18.

Administrative subdivisions: 31 states and the federal district.

Flag: Green, white, and red vertical bands. An eagle holding a snake in its beak and perching on a cactus is centered.

Economy

GDP (1984): \$185 billion. **Per capita GDP:** \$2,350. **Annual real GDP growth rate** (1984): 3.7%. **Avg. inflation rate** (1984): 59.2%.

Natural resources: Petroleum, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, timber.

Agriculture (9.5% of 1984 GDP, including fishing and forestry): *Products*—corn, beans, oilseeds, feedgrains, fruit, cotton, coffee, sugarcane, winter vegetables. *Total farmland*—23 million hectares (57.1 million acres).

Industry (1984): *Types*—manufacturing (23.9% of GDP), services (24.7%), commerce (24.0%), transportation and communications (7.6%), petroleum and mining (3.8%).

Trade (1984): *Exports*—\$25.2 billion: petroleum and derivatives (67%), coffee, cotton, fruits, vegetables, manufactures, mining. *Imports*—\$11.3 billion: grains, machinery, equipment, industrial vehicles, intermediate goods. *Major trading partners*—US, EC, Japan.

Official exchange rate (Dec. 1985): 345 pesos=US\$1 (controlled rate); 490 pesos/US\$1 (free market rate).

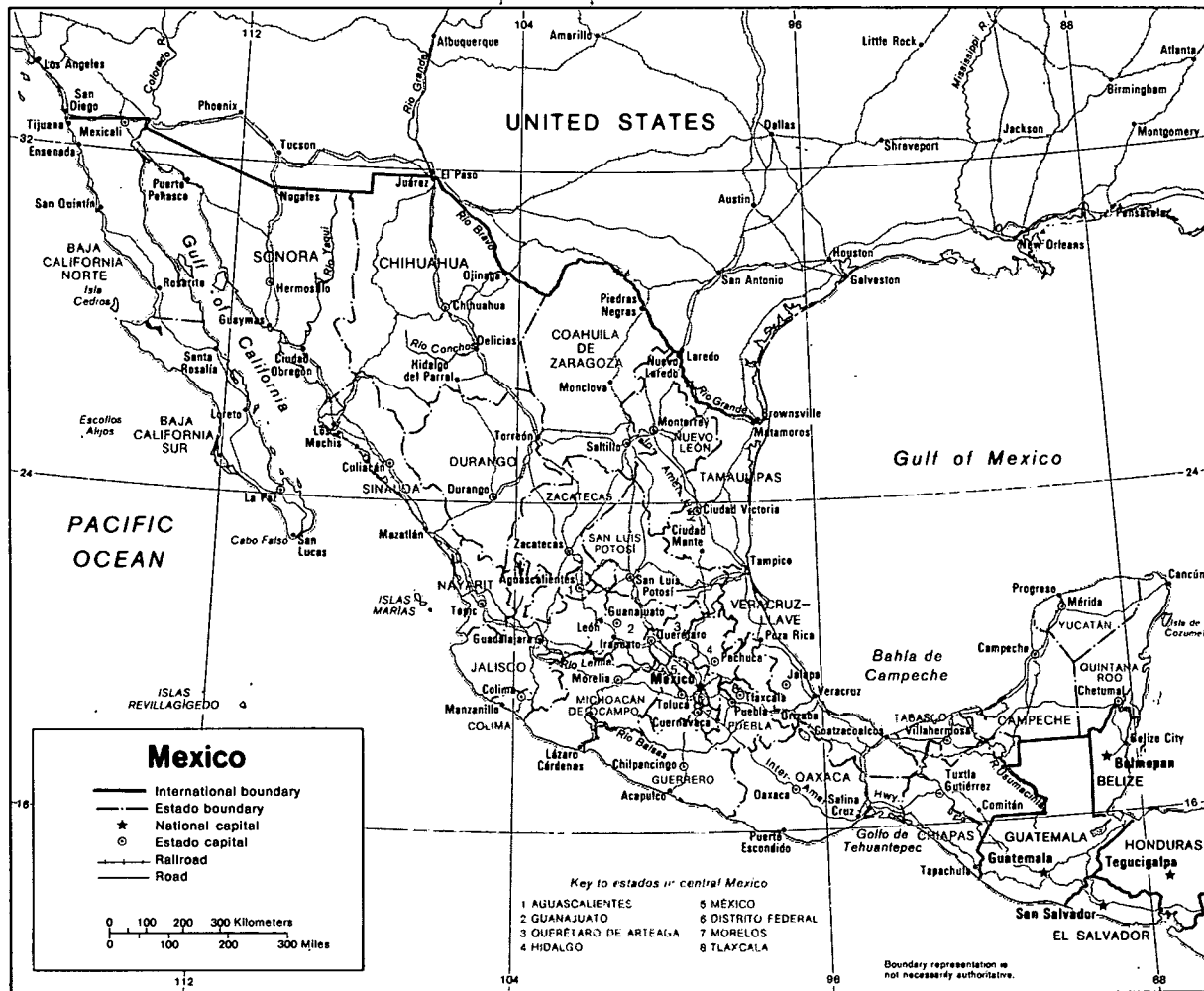
Membership in International Organizations

UN and some of its specialized and related agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); Seabeds Committee; Inter-American Defense Board (IADB); Organization of American States (OAS); Latin American Integration Association (ALADI); INTELSAT; and others.

Published by the United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • Editorial Division • Washington, D.C. • December 1985
Editor: Juanita Adams

Department of State Publication 7865
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Popocateptl Volcano—view from Tlamananco, State of Mexico.



GEOGRAPHY

The topography of Mexico ranges from low desert plains and jungle-like coastal strips to high plateaus and rugged mountains. Beginning at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico, an extension of a South American mountain range runs north almost to Mexico City, where it divides to form the coastal Occidental (west) and Oriental (east) Ranges of the Sierra Madre. Between these ranges lies the great central plateau, a rugged tableland 2,400 kilometers (1,500 mi.) long and as much as 800 kilometers (500 mi.) wide. From a low desert plain in the north, it rises to 2,400 meters (8,000 ft.) above sea level near Mexico City.

Mexico's climate is generally more closely related to altitude and rainfall than to latitude. Most of Mexico is dry; only about 12% of the total area receives adequate rainfall in all seasons, while about one-half is deficient in moisture throughout the year. Temperatures range from tropical in the coastal lowlands to cool in the higher elevations.

PEOPLE

Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most populous country in Latin America (after Brazil). More than one-half of the people live in central Mexico. Many Mexicans emigrate from areas lacking in job opportunities—such as in the underdeveloped southern states and the crowded central plateau—to the industrializing urban centers and the developing border areas of the northern states. According to 1985 estimates, the urban population of Mexico City may have grown to 18 million, which would make greater Mexico City the largest urban concentration in the world. The northwestern region also had a sharp rise. Guadalajara, Monterrey, and other urban areas also showed large increases.

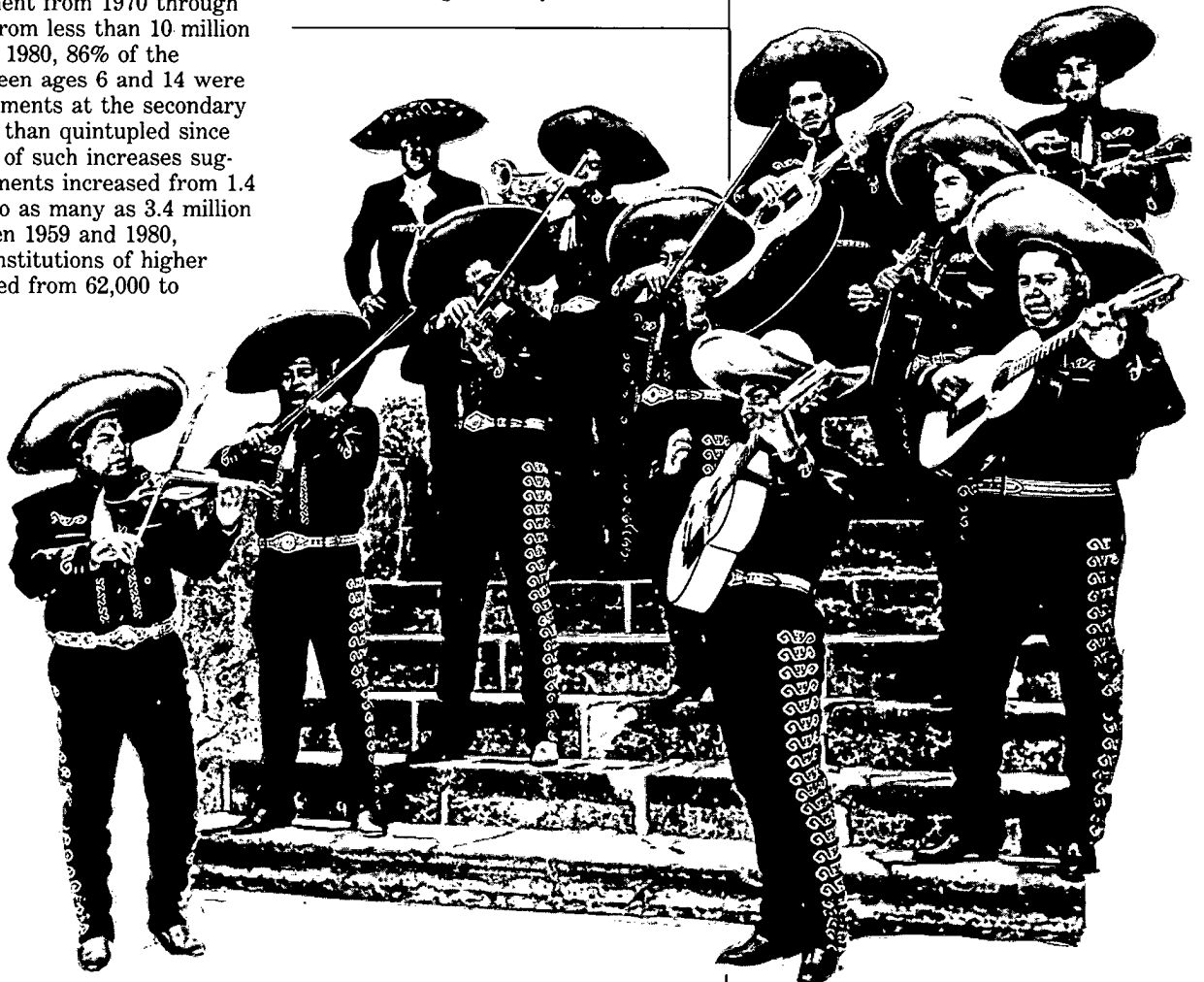
Education in Mexico is being decentralized and expanded. A major attempt is underway to promote educational activity in rural areas, and the increase in school enrollments during the past two decades has been dramatic. Education is mandatory from ages 6 through 14 or until primary education is completed. Primary enrollment from 1970 through 1980 increased from less than 10 million to 16 million. In 1980, 86% of the population between ages 6 and 14 were in school. Enrollments at the secondary level have more than quintupled since 1955. Estimates of such increases suggest that enrollments increased from 1.4 million in 1972 to as many as 3.4 million by 1981. Between 1959 and 1980, enrollments in institutions of higher learning increased from 62,000 to 770,000.



Artisan working with clay molds.

At the heart of its cultural expression are Mexico's history and quest for national identity. Contemporary artists, architects, writers, musicians, and dancers continue to draw inspiration from a rich history of Indian civilization, colonial influence, revolution, and the development of the modern Mexican state. Artists and intellectuals alike emphasize the problems of social relations in a context of national and revolutionary traditions.

Popular Mariachis folk music performed here by Mariachis a la entrada del fuerte de Loreto, Puebla.



HISTORY

An advanced Indian civilization existed in Mexico before the Spanish conquest. Major Indian cultures included the Olmec, the Maya, the Toltec, and the Aztec. Hernan Cortes conquered Mexico in 1519-21 and founded a Spanish colony that lasted nearly 300 years. Independence from Spain was proclaimed by Father Miguel Hidalgo on September 16, 1810, and the republic was established on December 6, 1822. Prominent in the War for Independence were Father Jose Maria Morelos; Gen. Augustin de Iturbide, who defeated the Spaniards and ruled as emperor for a short period; and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, who controlled Mexican politics from 1833 to 1855.

Santa Ana was Mexico's leader during the conflict with Texas, which declared itself independent from Mexico in 1836, and during the war with the United States (1846-48). The presidential terms of Benito Juarez (1858-71) were interrupted by the period of the empire. Archduke Maximilian of Austria, who was established as emperor of Mexico in 1864 by Napoleon III of France, was deposed by Juarez and executed in 1867. Gen. Porfirio Diaz was president during most of the period between 1877 and 1910.

Mexico's drastic social and economic problems erupted in the revolution of 1910. Prominent leaders in this revolution—some were rivals for power—were Francisco I. Madero, Venustiano Carranza, Pancho Villa, Alvaro Obregon, and Emiliano Zapata.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, under various names and after a number of reorganizations (now known as the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional*—PRI), continues to be the most important political force in the nation.

On September 19, 1985, Mexico suffered the worst earthquake in its recorded history. The earthquake, which was centered off of Mexico's Pacific coast, caused at least 10,000 deaths and approximately \$5 billion dollars in damage, mostly in Mexico City. Nevertheless, most of Mexico's citizens and buildings escaped harm. As of late 1985, the Mexican Government was completing its long-term plans for earthquake reconstruction.

GOVERNMENT

The constitution of 1917 provides for a federal republic with a separation of powers into independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

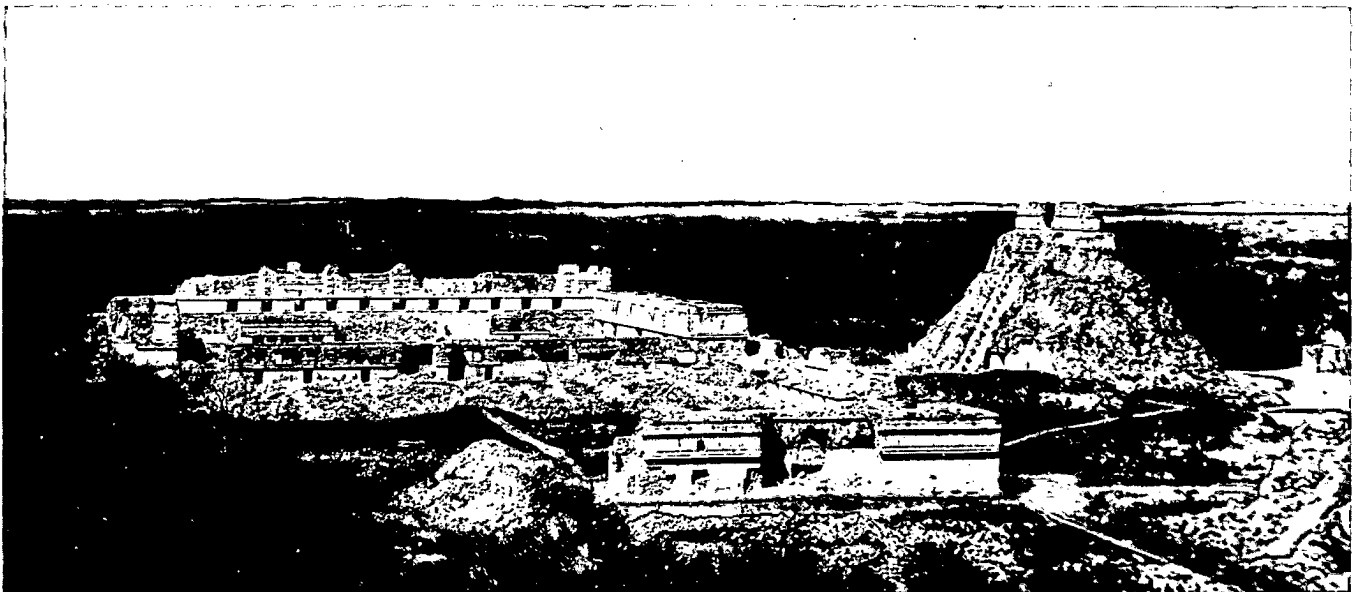
The executive branch is dominant. Executive power is vested in the president, who promulgates and executes the laws of the Congress. The president also legislates by executive decree in certain economic and financial fields, using powers delegated from the Congress. The president is elected by universal adult suffrage a 6-year term and may not hold office a second time. There is no vice president; in case of the removal or death of the president, a provisional president is elected by the Congress.

Congress is composed of a Senate



The giant stone warrior of Tula.

The Yucatan, Las Monjas, Uxmal.





Mexico City's National Cathedral in Zocalo.

and a Chamber of Deputies. Consecutive reelection to the Congress is prohibited. Sixty-four senators (two from each state and the federal district) are elected to 6-year terms.

Under constitutional and legislative reforms adopted in 1977, the Chamber of Deputies was enlarged in the 1979 elections (from the former 237 members) to allow 300 deputies to be elected in single-member districts by a plurality system and 100 deputies to be elected by proportional representation from the minority parties. This reform is intended to provide minority parties with greater representation in the Chamber of Deputies. Deputies serve 3-year terms. The Mexican Congress is empowered to legislate on all matters pertaining to the national government.

The judicial system consists of local and federal courts and a Supreme Court. Supreme Court justices are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate.

Mexico has 31 states and a federal district. Each state is headed by an elected governor. Powers not expressly vested in the federal government are reserved to the states.

Mexico's armed forces in 1985 numbered about 125,000 officers and troops. The army makes up about three-fourths of the total. One year of limited training is required of all males reaching age 18. A paramilitary force of communal landholders is maintained in the countryside. Principal military roles include maintenance of public order and civic action assignments, such as road-building and disaster relief. Military expenditures constituted 1.4% of the central government budget for the year ending December 31, 1985.

Principal Government Officials

President—Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado

Ministers

Government (Interior)—Manuel **Bartlett** Diaz

Foreign Relations—Bernardo **Sepulveda** Amor

National Defense—Gen. Juan **Arevalo** Gardoqui

Navy—Adm. Miguel Angel **Gomez** Ortega

Finance—Jesus **Silva Herzog** Flores

Programming and Budget—Carlos **Salinas** de Gortari

Energy, Mines, and Parastate

Industry—Francisco **Labastida** Ochoa

Commerce and Industrial Development—Hector **Hernandez** Cervantes

Agriculture and Water Resources—Eduardo **Pesqueira** Olea

Communications and Transportation—Daniel **Diaz** Diaz

Urban Development and Ecology—Guillermo **Carrillo** Arena

Public Education—Miguel **Gonzalez** Avelar

Health and Public Assistance—Guillermo **Soberon** Acevedo

Labor and Social Welfare—Arsenio **Farrell** Cubillas

Agrarian Reform—Luis **Martinez** Villicana

Tourism—Antonio **Enriquez** Savignac

Fisheries—Pedro **Ojeda** Paullada

Federal District—Ramon **Aquirre** Velasquez

Attorney General—Sergio **Garcia** Ramirez

Attorney General for the Federal District—Victoria Adato de **Ibarra**
Comptroller General—Francisco **Rojas**

Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS)—Rafael de la **Colina**

Ambassador to the United Nations—Mario **Moya** Palencia

Ambassador to the United States—Jorge **Espinosa** de los Reyes

Mexico maintains an embassy in the United States at 2829 - 16th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20009 (tel. 202-234-6000). Consular offices are located at 1019 - 19th Street NW. (tel. 202-293-1710). Consulates general are located at Chicago, El Paso, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, and San Antonio, and consulates (partial listing) at Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, Philadelphia, and St. Louis.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado began his 6-year term in 1982. De la Madrid, a lawyer, has been a university professor, finance director for PEMEX, Director General for Credit at the Treasury, Undersecretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Programming and Budget.

The *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI)—Institutional Revolutionary Party—has been the dominant political force in Mexico since 1929; not only all of its presidential candidates but almost all of its candidates for congressional and state offices have been elected. PRI membership is taken from labor, agrarian, and popular groups, from which candidates for elective office are selected. The PRI faces several opposition parties. In July 1985 nationwide congressional elections, vote percentages were distributed as follows: PRI (64.85%), PAN (15.5%), PSUM (3.22%), PDM (2.73%), PST (2.46%), PPS (1.95%), PARM (1.65%), PMT (1.55%), PRT (1.26%), other and annulled votes (4.83%).

Significant political themes of the De la Madrid administration have included an emphasis on economic austerity, a drive against corruption in government, and reorganization of all police forces.

ECONOMY

Mexico's economy is experiencing a slow and trying recovery from its 1982 crisis. Nineteen eighty-five is the third year of a 3-year extended fund facility arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Since Mexico began the arrangement, inflation has dropped from 100% in 1982 to 80% in 1983, to 59.2% in 1984. For the first half of 1985, however, inflation grew at about the same rate as in 1984. The financial deficit as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) decreased from 17.6% in 1982 to 8.5% in 1983, to 7.4% in 1984. Mexico's trade balance turned from a negative \$4.5 billion in 1981 to a positive \$6.8 billion in 1982, a positive \$13.8 billion in 1983, and a positive \$12.8 billion in 1984. Mexico's foreign debt has grown to almost \$100 billion, and annual public sector interest payments amount to about \$10 billion.

Earthquakes in September 1985 will have a significant impact on the Mexican economy. The costs of cleaning and reconstruction will run into the billions of dollars. Most of the funds will go into building construction and the repairing of telecommunications and water supply systems.

During the 1970s, the economy experienced difficulties largely as a result of an ambitious public expenditure program that could not be financed by domestic savings, causing the government to borrow substantial funds from

abroad. These policies led to burgeoning public sector deficits, accelerating inflation, and an increase in the Mexican public sector's external debt from \$4 billion (12% of GDP) in 1970, to \$59 billion (36% of GDP) in 1982, to \$97 billion (54% of GDP) in mid-1985.

When President de la Madrid took office in December 1982, the economy was plagued by rising inflation, capital flight, and falling output and employment. Foreign exchange reserves were not sufficient to meet even the country's short-term external liabilities. The new President's inauguration followed by only 4 months the events of August 1982, when the Mexican economic crisis came to a head. At that time, the country was forced to seek emergency assistance to avoid running out of foreign exchange and to begin planning in earnest an economic adjustment program to bring about major structural changes in the economy.

In 1984, the Mexican economy surpassed its growth targets with real GDP growth of 3.5% following real declines of 5.3% in 1983 and 0.5% in 1982. The growth came primarily from non-petroleum exports, steel, chemicals, in-bond industries, and automobiles.

Petroleum production in 1984 was slightly above that in 1983 even with a temporary production cutback in November. Petroleum exports at \$16.6 billion in 1984 accounted for 69% of all of Mexico's merchandise exports. The trade surplus for 1984 was almost \$13 billion, and the current account surplus was about \$4 billion. Nonpetroleum exports were up by about 26%. Imports were up 18% in dollar terms but remained well below 1982 and 1981 levels.

The international petroleum market and interest rates have had considerable influence on Mexico's economy in 1985. Petroleum prices have already been adjusted downward three times without an increase in volume, causing a decline in export revenues. Lower world interest rates have brought about savings in debt-servicing costs on foreign loans, but higher domestic interest rates have offset some of the consequent budget savings.

During the first half of 1985, foreign exchange reserves contracted as exports decreased and imports increased. Capital flight also contributed to the decline in foreign exchange reserves. The exchange rate has been under pressure since the 1982 crisis, sliding from 26 pesos per dollar at the start of 1982 to 148 pesos per dollar at the end of 1982. The government adopted a dual exchange rate system in December

Further Information

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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Colorful street markets where shoppers can buy food, baskets, and art objects.

1982. The official market rate of exchange for the peso declined to 210 at the end of 1984. In December 1985, the official controlled rate for international trade and debt payments was around 345 pesos to the dollar, while the market rate was around 490.

International Trade

Petroleum constitutes about 69% of Mexico's total exports. Manufactures, including chemicals, transport equipment, textiles, shoes, iron, steel, and electric and electronic products make up about 20% of Mexico's exports. Other leading exports include coffee and winter vegetables. Imports are largely of capital and intermediate goods and grains.

Mexico signed a subsidies agreement with the United States in March 1985, which gave Mexico the injury test in

countervailing duty cases but called for a progressive elimination of all export subsidies.

The United States purchases about 60% of Mexico's exports and supplies around 65% of its imports. Tourism and in-bond industries are important foreign exchange earners for Mexico, bringing in a total of \$2.5 billion in 1984.

Agriculture

Mexico's agrarian reform program was begun more than 50 years ago, and almost all available land has been distributed. Raising the productivity and living standards of subsistence farmers has been slow, however. Self-sufficiency in basic crops such as corn and beans is being stressed by the government, but emphasis is also given to export crops such as coffee, tomatoes, and winter vegetables. Mexico's agriculture suffers a drought in 4 years out of every 10. In 1980, Mexico began importing large quantities of corn, other feedgrains, and oilseeds to meet domestic needs. In 1984, Mexico was again a net importer of agricultural products as imports of \$2.3 billion outpaced exports of \$1.7 billion.

Mineral and Energy Resources

Mexico is rich in mineral and energy resources, and mineral exports are an important element in foreign trade. A leading producer of silver, sulfur, lead, and zinc, Mexico also produces gold, copper, manganese, coal, and iron ore. The discovery of extensive new oil fields in the coastal regions along the Gulf of Mexico in 1974 enabled Mexico to become self-sufficient in crude oil and to export increasing amounts of petroleum. Recent estimates put the country's potential petroleum reserves as the fourth largest in the world. It also is now the fourth largest oil producer and exporter in the world.

Manufacturing and Foreign Investment

Mexico's manufacturing sector now accounts for about one-fifth of the GDP. Important gains have been made in the production of cement, aluminum, artificial fibers, chemicals, fertilizers, petrochemicals, and paper. A growing automobile industry has become one of Mexico's most important industrial and export sectors.

International Boundary and Water Commission



Preceded by several short-term commissions to survey and mark the boundary after its creation in 1848 and modification in 1853, the International Boundary Commission was established as a permanent, joint commission by treaty in 1889. The Water Treaty of 1944 extended its authority to the land boundary, and added to its responsibilities the boundary water problems, then becoming very important. The 1944 treaty renamed the body The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). It also required that the U.S.

and Mexican commissioners be engineers.

The IBWC has a wide range of responsibilities and specific programs for solution of U.S.-Mexican water and boundary problems. These include distribution between the two countries of the waters of the Colorado River and the Rio Grande; joint operation of international dams on the Rio Grande to control floods, conserve waters, and to generate electricity; other joint flood control works along boundary rivers; solution of border water quality control problems; and stabilization of the river boundaries. These responsibilities and programs are carried out in accordance with various treaties and agreements.

The IBWC has successfully resolved many difficult and longstanding problems. For example, the Chamizal Settlement of 1963 resolved a 100-year-old dispute at El Paso/Ciudad Juarez by exchange of territory and rechanneling the Rio Grande. A permanent solution to the international problem related to the salinity of the Colorado River was reached in 1973. In the 1980s, the IBWC has focused on troublesome border sanitation problems and has been studying groundwater resources along the boundary.

The 1973 law governing direct foreign investment in Mexico requires majority Mexican ownership in all new investments except those deemed to be in the national interest by a commission established by the law. In general, the law codifies the existing laws, decrees, and regulations that previously governed the role of foreign direct investment in Mexico.

The De la Madrid administration has said publicly that it welcomes foreign investment on a selective basis and that it will be flexible in applying the law. Foreign investments most likely to be approved are those which complement domestic investment, bring needed technology, help increase exports or reduce imports, or are labor intensive. Flexibility has been seen in the recent approval of a 100% foreign-owned IBM investment proposal.

Other key elements of Mexico's investment policy are a rationalization of industries (i.e., to limit competitors in order to achieve economies of scale), a decentralization of manufacturing industries away from Mexico City and the surrounding area, local content and export performance requirements, and a diversification of foreign investment sources. Currently, an estimated 35% of

Mexico's nonpetroleum exports are by foreign-owned firms, which account for only about 4% of total private investment.

Transportation and Communications

Mexico's land transportation network is one of the most extensive in Latin America. The 36,000 kilometers of railroads are government owned. Tampico and Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico are Mexico's two major ports, although the government is developing new ports on the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific. A number of international airlines serve Mexico, with direct or connecting flights from most major cities in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Most Mexican regional capitals and resorts have direct air links with Mexico City or the United States.

Mexico has a well-developed telecommunications system, with its own satellites, 211 television stations, 1,061 radio stations, 3 land satellite receiving stations, and 5.0 million telephones. Earthquake damage to these facilities in September 1985 was extensive. Mexico is a member of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT).

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Government of Mexico, in modern times, has sought to maintain its interests abroad and project its influence largely through moral suasion and selective economic assistance. In particular, Mexico champions the principle of nonintervention and certain legal corollaries: the Estrada, Calvo, and Drago doctrines.

During the last 5 years, the Mexican Government has expressed concern about intensified conflict in Central America. Mexicans believe that insurgency in Central America stems principally from economic and social injustices in that area. A Franco-Mexican declaration on El Salvador, issued in late August 1981, pressed for a political

settlement that would recognize armed insurgents as "a legitimate political force." Since early 1983, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama have expanded their collaboration in an effort to bring the states of the region together and restore peace.

Mexico and Venezuela have also been collaborating to promote economic progress in the region for the last 5 years. The two countries jointly have sold oil on concessional terms to the developing countries of Central America and the Caribbean, under the 1980 San Jose agreement.

Mexico has shown a marked preference for resolving regional disputes through the United Nations, rather than the Organization of American States (OAS). Mexican leaders have also stated, however, that the OAS should be retained as a forum for Latin American countries to discuss issues in a general way with the United States.

Mexico has been selective in its membership in other international organizations. To date, it has declined to become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), or the Non-Aligned Movement. However, in November 1985, President de la Madrid announced Mexico's intention to seek formal accession to the GATT.

U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS

Mexico and the United States have maintained close and friendly relations since 1938, when a major confrontation over the expropriation of oil holdings was resolved. These friendly relations were reinforced by U.S. measures in 1982 to help Mexico deal with its economic problems. Purchases for the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, with a large advance payment, emphasized the cooperative nature of the U.S.-Mexican energy relationship.

Much of the progress in U.S.-Mexican relations over the past several years has resulted from the close working relationships and frequent meetings between U.S. Presidents and their Mexican counterparts, as well as from high-level day-to-day contacts by the U.S. Ambassador. The most recent presidential meeting was between Presidents Reagan and de la Madrid in Washington, D.C., in May 1984.

Beyond financial cooperation, the United States and Mexico are cooperating in efforts to solve various other problems, the most important of which are narcotics and dangerous drug traffic into the United States, immigration

matters, border environmental issues, and trade issues.

The United States includes the following in its foreign policy objectives toward Mexico: to maintain friendly relations, to assure maximum cooperation between Mexico and the United States, and to settle all differences in the spirit of mutual respect and neighborly understanding. A strong and prosperous Mexico is in the U.S. interest.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—John Gavin
Deputy Chief of Mission—Morris D. Busby
Counselor for Political Affairs—Robert S. Pastorino
Counselor for Economic Affairs—Richard H. Morefield
Counselor for Labor Affairs—John B. Gwynn
Counselor for Public Affairs (USIS)—Sally Grooms
Counselor for Consular Affairs and Consul General—Charles Brown
Counselor for Scientific and Technological Affairs—Reynaldo Morales
Counselor for Administrative Affairs—Douglas K. Watson
Counselor for Commercial Affairs—Emilio Iodice
Legal Adviser to the Ambassador—Michael Hancock

Consuls General and Consuls
Consulate General, Ciudad Juarez—Michael Hancock
Consulate General, Guadalajara—A. Irwin Rubenstein
Consulate, Hermosillo—J. Christian Kennedy
Consulate, Matamoros—Danny B. Root
Consulate, Mazatlan—Elayne J. Urban
Consulate, Merida—Virginia C. Young
Consulate General, Monterrey—Martin G. Heflin
Consulate, Nuevo Laredo—Manuel R. Guerra
Consulate General, Tijuana—Robert D. Emmons

Consular Agents
Acapulco—Lambert Jean Urbanek
Cancun—Genevieve Elisabeth Browning de Valdez
Durango—Kenneth F. Darg
Mulege—Donald J. Johnson
Oaxaca—Roberta K. French
Puerto Vallarta—Jenny McGill
San Luis Potosi—Margaret M. Snyderlaar
San Miguel de Allende—Col. Philip Maher
Tampico—Mary Elizabeth Alzaga
Veracruz—Edwin L. Culp

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico is located at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Mexico 06500, D.F. (tel. 905-211-0042). ■

Travel Notes

Customs: A tourist card is required for entry.

Climate and clothing: The high plateau area around Guadalajara and Mexico City is spring-like throughout the year, a bit cooler in winter, and a little warmer in summer. The Yucatan Peninsula, the Monterrey area, and the US border areas are very hot in summer and pleasant in winter. Business suits for men and street dresses or pantsuits for women are appropriate in the cities. Sport shirts are worn for all social occasions in the coastal zones.

Health: Cooked food is safe to eat; raw vegetables often are not. Tapwater may not be potable. Medical facilities in the larger cities are good. A leisurely pace is recommended for the first few days in the higher altitudes.

Telecommunications: Long-distance telephone and telegraph service to major cities is good. Mexico City is one time zone behind eastern standard time.

Transportation: Direct international air service from many US airports is available to Mexico City, Cancun, Guadalajara, Merida, Monterrey, and other points. Bus service in Mexico is good, and the highway system is extensive. Auto rental is available.

Tourist attractions: About 4 million tourists, about 90% of them US citizens, visit Mexico annually. Among the richest archeological sites are Teotihuacan (with its famous pyramids) and Tula near Mexico City, Monte Alban and Palenque in the south, and Chichen Itza and Uxmal in the Yucatan. The National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City is one of the world's finest. Other important museums include the Colonial Museum in Tepozotlan, Chapultepec Castle, and the Museum of La Venta at Villahermosa, Tabasco. The major coastal resorts are Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, Ixtapa, Cozumel, and Cancun.